## Claims

[c1]

[c4]

[c5]

[c6]

- 1. A multi-layered substrate having a voltage reference signal circuit layout therein, comprising:
- a first layer having a plurality of signal traces;
- a second layer having at least one conductive plane;
- a third layer having at least one conductive plane and a voltage reference signal trace; and
- a fourth layer having a plurality of signal traces.
- [c2] 2. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the conductive plane at the second layer is a ground plane.
- [c3] 3. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the conductive plane at the second layer is a power plane.
  - 4. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the conductive plane at the third layer is a ground plane.
    - 5. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the conductive plane at the third layer is a power plane.
    - 6. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the voltage reference signal trace is surrounded by the conductive plane at the third layer.
- [c7] 7. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the substrate further at least one layer having a plurality of signal traces between the second layer and the third layer.
- [c8] 8. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the substrate further a layer having at least one ground plane and a plurality of signal traces between the first layer and the second layer.
- [c9] 9. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the substrate further a layer having at least one power plane and a plurality of signal traces between the third layer and the fourth layer.
- [c10]
  10. The multi-layered substrate of claim 1, wherein the first layer further

[c15]

includes a voltage reference signal trace.

- [c11] 11. A multi-layered substrate having a voltage reference signal circuit layout therein, comprising:

  a first signal layer having a plurality of signal traces;

  a second signal layer having a plurality of signal traces; and

  at least one non-signaling layer between the first signal layer and the second signal layer, wherein a voltage reference signal trace is in one of the non-signaling layers.
- [c12] 12. The multi-layered substrate of claim 11, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one power plane.
- [c13] 13. The multi-layered substrate of claim 11, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one ground layer plane.
- [c14] 14. The multi-layered substrate of claim 11, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one power plane and a plurality of signal traces.
  - 15. The multi-layered substrate of claim 11, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one ground layer plane and a plurality of signal traces.
- [c16] 16. A multi-layered substrate having a voltage reference signal circuit layout therein, comprising:

  at least one signal layer having a plurality of signal traces;
  a non-signaling layer having a voltage reference signal trace; and
  a conductive plane between the signal layer and the non-signaling layer.
- [c17] 17. The multi-layered substrate of claim 16, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one power plane.
- [c18] 18. The multi-layered substrate of claim 16, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one ground layer plane.
- [c19] 19. The multi-layered substrate of claim 16, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one power plane and a plurality of signal traces.
- [c20] 20. The multi-layered substrate of claim 16, wherein the non-signaling layer

[c25]

21 The multi-layered substrate of claim 16 wherein the conductive plan

includes at least one ground layer plane and a plurality of signal traces.

- [c21] 21. The multi-layered substrate of claim 16, wherein the conductive plane includes a ground plane.
- [c22] 22. The multi-layered substrate of claim 16, wherein the conductive plane includes a power plane.
- [c23] 23. A multi-layered substrate having a voltage reference signal circuit layout therein, comprising:

  at least one signal layer having a plurality of signal traces; and at least one non-signaling layer having a voltage reference signal trace.
- [c24] 24. The multi-layered substrate of claim 23, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one ground layer plane.
  - 25. The multi-layered substrate of claim 23, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one power plane and a plurality of signal traces.
- [c26] 26. The multi-layered substrate of claim 23, wherein the non-signaling layer includes at least one ground layer plane and a plurality of signal traces.